

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

2 INTRODUCED BY W. GRINDE

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND A REPORT
6 TO THE 61ST LEGISLATURE.

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8 WHEREAS, Montanans expect clean and fair elections and are concerned about the rapidly escalating
9 amount of money required to run for elective office in Montana; and

10 WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of the United States reports that a better elections system,
11 called "Clean Elections", is already in place in seven states and two municipalities and that this is a proved way
12 to improve campaign financing; and

13 WHEREAS, under a Clean Elections system, eligible candidates receive a grant of public money for their
14 campaigns so that qualified people who would otherwise not run for election can run competitive campaigns on
15 level playing fields; and

16 WHEREAS, Clean Elections would likely encourage more participation in elections in Montana; and

17 WHEREAS, an interim study would provide for a much needed comprehensive review of Montana's
18 campaign finance laws; and

19 WHEREAS, an interim study provides a forum for healthy bipartisan debate among legislators,
20 stakeholders, and the general public about how best to approach campaign financing reforms.

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22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
23 STATE OF MONTANA:

24 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
25 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

26 (1) review Montana's current campaign finance laws;

27 (2) examine campaign finance reform, including clean election laws adopted in other jurisdictions; and

28 (3) investigate and analyze options for public financing of campaigns.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate interim committee or sufficient staff resources be
30 directed to develop recommendations for campaign finance reform and publically financed campaigns in

1 Montana.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
3 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
5 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
7 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

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